

11-21-96

VALLEY★STAR

Volume 49, Issue 10

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

Thursday, November 21, 1996

HIGHLIGHTS

November 22: Last day to drop with a "W." Letter grade required beyond this date.

This Friday @ 8 p.m., **Valley Symphony Orchestra** presents the second concert of the 96-97 season. Tickets: general \$10, seniors/students \$7. Call (818) 781-1200, ext. 346 for more info.

The next Valley College **Monarch's Football game**, Valley College vs. Santa Monica College @ Valley is scheduled for this Saturday @ 7 p.m.

Free refreshments and entertainment this Friday from noon to 1 p.m. at the campus Monarch square. Come to **congratulate** the 8-1 football team's great winning season.

"**Latin Cabaret**" offers a night of music, comedy, and theatrical works of the best Latino talent. For three weekends, Dec. 5, 12 & 19 @ 7:30 p.m. Admission charge: \$10. RSVP to (213) 653-4848.

The semester's last **Ability to Benefit Test** is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 27 @ 2 p.m. in Adm. 126. Stop by the Financial Aid office for more info.

Elementary Algebra Competency Test is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 3 @ 6 p.m. at Adm. 126. No appointment necessary.

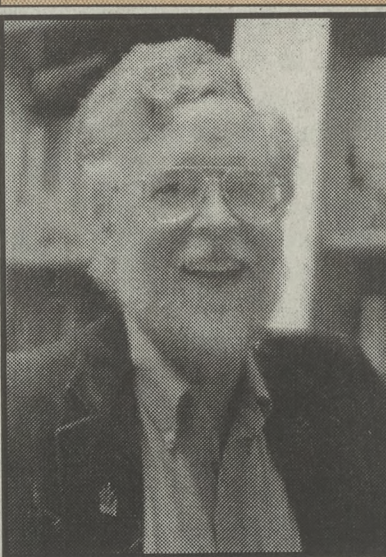
The Writing Center invites students to attend **Free Writing Workshops**. Workshops this week are: Eng. 28 Essay Test Preparation. Offered this Monday and Tuesday @ noon and again @ 6 p.m. Workshops and information in Humanities 100.

"**Smart? Having Trouble Learning? You May be Learning Disabled.**" is the next Lunchtime Workshop topic offered Tuesday, Nov. 26 from noon to 1 p.m. in FL102.

Titanic is the next Theatre Arts Department production, scheduled for today & tomorrow. For time and place, call (818) 778-0353.

The Valley Star is now accepting applications for Editor-in-Chief for the Spring '97 semester. Please send or bring a letter of interest to the newspaper advisor Candy Nall by today.

Valley College groups & organizations may submit flyers and other information to be printed in HIGHLIGHTS. Submit info. to B25 by noon on the Monday of the week of publication.



Carola Danielsson/Valley Star
Dr. Kelly Ross

Men's Gym Flooded, \$25,000 in Damage

By JOHN TARR
STAFF WRITER

Warped planks and \$25,000 worth of damage were left in the wake of a vandal's flooding of the Men's Gym basketball floor last Friday.

At about 1 p.m. Andy Jackson, equipment supervisor for the Physical Education department, noticed the lights were on in the men's gym.

Jackson found the gym floor covered in water from one-half inch to one inch and notified campus police.

"We think this is a little more than a prank," said Campus Police Officer Spence Gosenson, the first officer at the scene.

Campus police suspect a disgruntled student entered the gym between 9 and 10 a.m. Friday through the locker entrance. The vandal placed the gym's fire hose in the bleachers and turned it on, flooding the floor.

This is a case of felony vandalism. No arrests have been made but the case has been reported to the Los Angeles Police Department for further investigation.

This weekend the top of the gym floor will be sanded to determine the extent of the damage. If preliminary reports are correct, the gym will re-open in mid-December.

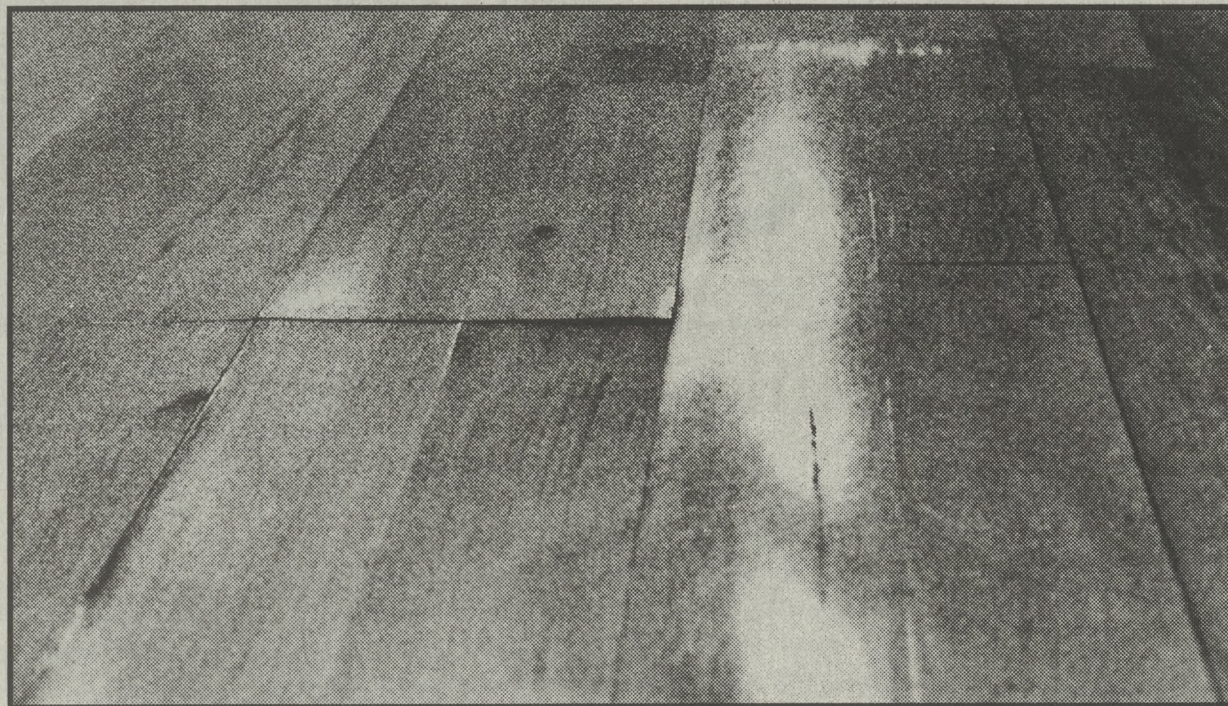
The men's gym is used by the men's and women's basketball teams and is open to the public through the the Community Services Program.

The basketball schedule has been seriously disrupted, according to Chuck Ferrero, Athletic Director. The men's team has lost two games and the women's team has lost one game because of the damage, Ferrero said.

"They [the women's team] play Ventura at Ventura [this Saturday], the number one team in the state," Ferrero said. "It takes the home court advantage away."

Because of the inability to play on the warped floor, the teams must play their games at the opponents courts until the damage is repaired, according to Gary Honjio, Physical Education department chair.

Men's Gym classes have been moved to the Women's Gym and given priority over public use



Carola Danielsson/Valley Star

A small section of the damage done to the floor in the Men's Gym.

time. The Community Services Program is trying to juggle their schedule of open recreation times (the public's opportunity to use the gym) which have been displaced because of the physical education classes.

There will be no open recreation times in the Women's Gym until further notice, perhaps through December 15, according to

Honjio.

"Everybody's cooperating wonderfully," Honjio said. "We're trying to make the best out of a bad situation."

Campus police have found no motive for the vandalism but are still investigating the incident. Anyone who uses the gym is a suspect, according to Campus Police Captain Karl Traber.

Welfare Reform: Nothing for Students to GAIN

By REBECCA FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

Valley College students receiving Welfare benefits voiced their concerns about the new reforms, and the effect it will have on them continuing college.

"When I signed up for welfare I was going through hard-times. Once I enrolled in school things started looking up for me and my son. Now with the changes in the welfare system, I'm faced with having to choose between college and the GAIN (Greater Avenues for Independence) program, said Krista a nursing student at Valley.

According to Krista she recently received a letter from GAIN stating she had a GAIN appraisal and she would have to attend or risk losing her benefits.

"I called the GAIN Case Manager and explained to him my situation with school and finals. I told him I couldn't miss class. He in-

formed me that I didn't have a choice," Krista said.

Once a welfare recipient receives the GAIN letter informing them that they have to participate in the program they are allowed three excused refusals and then their welfare benefits are cut.

"I can't afford to have my checks cut. I am doing everything I can to remain in school and get my degree so that I can get a job making enough to support me and my son," said Krista. "I don't want to be on welfare forever but it is going to take more than two years."

According to Krista her main concern is whether or not she will be allowed to remain in school.

"Because of the new Welfare Act the state is rushing to end AFDC checks. People like me are forced into the working world in fields that don't pay," Krista said.

Some of the programs implemented in the Reform Act are

geared towards getting recipients off of welfare as quickly as possible and out into the work place.

For students like Krista the programs are not advantageous. It is going to take her at least four years to get a degree in nursing. The Reform Act limits the length of time a parent can receive welfare to two consecutive years.

"I don't know if I will be able to finish school after my benefits end. I certainly can't afford to have GAIN reduce the amount I currently receive," Krista said.

According to Krista financial aid alone is not enough money to pay for school and living expenses. She said the supplemental checks that she gets from AFDC, and the aid she receives from school are her only source of income.

"I did have a part-time job, but I needed more time to study and take care of my son. The changes that they are making concerning

welfare and job training programs are limiting the amount of time I have to finish school. What am I supposed to do after that?" Krista asked.

"I had been in GAIN for a few months and was unable to find a job, said Debbie, a participant in the GAIN Program at Valley. "I asked them about going back to school and they helped me to get in here at Valley. I will be completing the program in December."

Debbie said the program allowed her to choose a course of study, upon completion she will be getting a certificate.

The amount of time for Debbie to complete her particular course of study was three months. The majority of the programs offered through GAIN are three to six month courses.

GAIN is one of the programs the Welfare Reform Act is relying on to help AFDC recipients back into the work force.

ASU Awards Book Grants to Essayists

By MONICA LID
STAFF WRITER

Ten Valley Students were recently selected to receive a book grant of \$100 sponsored by ASU. The competitors were asked to write an essay about a teacher they felt had affected their life in a positive way. "Prices on books keep rising and many students need all the help they can get," said Wendy Estevez, ASU commissioner of public relations. The judging committee received 23 essays which were judged based on content, grammar, closeness to directions and effort. The book grants will be given by the bookstore and validated for next semester. "I'm hoping to arrange another competition in early spring," Estevez said. "This is a tradition which we need to preserve."

The recipients of the book grants are: Lori Buggle, Limor S. Isaaks, Rana Abusway, Sarah Louise Sampson, Wendy Gosse, Manuel Bejar, Maria T. Reyes, Lori Morrissey, Marcella Yard, Colleen Flynn.

Philosophy Professor Takes a Lesson in Politics

By ADAM ADLER
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Kelly Ross of the philosophy department has been leading a double life.

A mild mannered Valley College professor by day, he becomes a campaigning political candidate by night, and whenever else he can spare the time.

In addition to teaching 18 units of philosophy, Ross ran for the State Assembly's 40th District seat under the Libertarian Party in the Nov. 5 election for the second time.

Though he did not win, Ross said he was pleasantly surprised by the amount of votes he received.

Ross does not seem like a typical political candidate. He wears casual clothes and has a fairly thick, fuzzy beard. When he talks about his views on the issues he takes a moment to think, putting things in his own words instead of coming straight off, talking like he blurted out a memorized state-

ment.

He can look someone in the eye and has a deep, throaty laugh, which comes up a lot while he is speaking. Possibly the only thing he has in common with the stereotypical image of a politician is a persistent ear to ear smile.

"I was really afraid that we would split the third party vote between us (the Natural Law Party ran David Cossak), but I ended up getting six times as many votes as he did," Ross said. "The whole third party vote was about 10 percent, and when you get into double digits that's pretty serious. I hope it continues."

Ross received 6,444 votes, 8 percent of the total. He fared much better than in 1994 when he received 4,201 votes, 5.8 percent of the total. The number of registered Libertarians in the 40th District is 700.

Ross said current and former students of voted for him. That still would not add up to the amount of votes he received in the elections.

He expected a lot of votes to come from people who were fed up with the conventional parties. Ross said he is still curious as to exactly why the results came out the way they did.

It was a twist of fate that brought Ross into the election scene. He joined the Libertarians in 1992. At a meeting where election candidates were being discussed, he made the "foolish mistake of saying 'oh that sounds like fun,'" Ross said.

About a year later, Ross received a phone call from the party asking if he wanted to be a candidate. "I guess so," he promptly said. Two elections later, he is still coming back to run.

To get on the ballot he had to circulate a petition among Libertarian Party members in the district. State law requires candidates to get 10 percent of the party members in their district to sign to be eligible to run on the ballot for state assembly.

"Which is real easy for Republicans and Democrats, who just

walk down the street and get one after another," Ross said. "If you're in a minority party you have to drive from one end of the precinct to another for one registered voter in that party, so it's fun."

He finished with a smirk and one of his deep laughs.

An interesting election experience for him has been the candidate forums at various places in the district. The first one he went to during the '94 election was sponsored by Seniors for Action, a Sherman Oaks based group. The Republican candidate in that race did not show up.

Since they were a candidate short, Ross had more time to speak and answer questions. He found the forum to be interesting, to say the least.

"They seemed basically to be socialists, who wanted socialized medicine (which Libertarians are directly opposed to, according to Ross) and all kinds of free stuff," said Ross about the crowd. "I knew it was not going to be an

easy crowd, but it was great fun."

This election, all four candidates came to the Seniors for Action forum, so there was less time for each to talk. There were however, four more forums this election as opposed to two in '94.

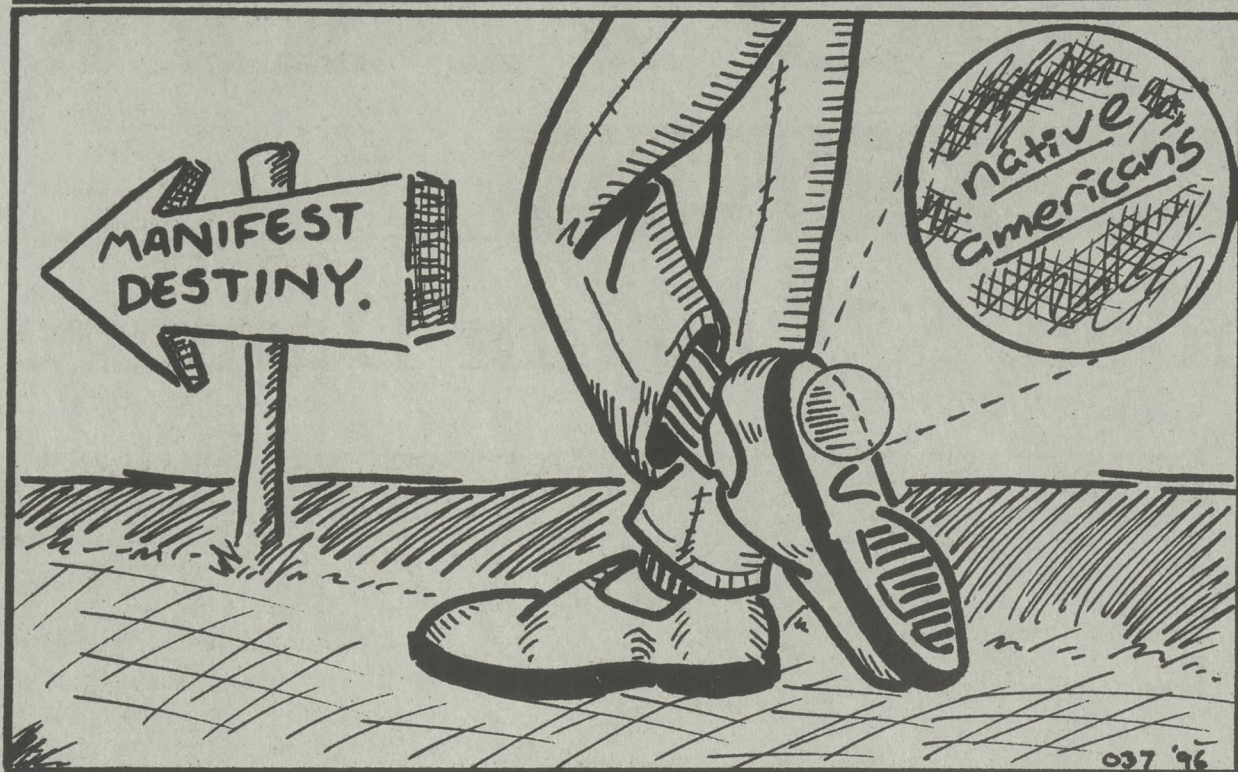
Ross' favorite forum this time around was sponsored and broadcast by Century Cable. It was his first time on television and once again, the Republican did not show up.

Ross said the election activities were taxing while he was still teaching. Asking strangers to sign petitions, attending forums, distributing leaflets, lots of walking and other things that come with the territory, wore him out.

Even so, it did not effect his smile, laugh or attitude. He plans to run again in 1998.

"You don't get much of a say as a third party, but at least you try," Ross said.

Ross received the same percentage of votes that Perot did in the California Presidential race.



Does Thanksgiving Really Thank the Native Americans?

By ADAM ADLER
STAFF WRITER

What could be a better tribute than thanking those on Thanksgiving who helped our ancestors when they first came to this land?

Who does not think of the Native Americans on Thanksgiving? Everybody learned in grade school that they were the ones who helped the Pilgrims survive when they first came to America.

The holiday honors them as well as reminding us to be thankful of what we have. Is there any holiday that is more American? It makes up for all the land and prosperity they have lost since our ancestors have come to this land, right?

America may think Native Americans have been repaid for their losses. History shows us the injustices done to Native Americans in the past but what about now?

To compensate for the past, the U.S. Government does not require them to pay taxes. The government also offers unconditional access to welfare and other support programs since Native Americans were granted citizenship in 1924.

Despite reports of improvement, the Native American's standard of living approaches that of third world countries.

Dr. Gerald Hill, director of the Center for American Indian and Minority Health at the University of Minnesota, said the Native Americans have grave problems.

He was quoted by the Journal of the American Medical Association in a June 1996 article saying although funding for Native American health care has risen, the amount in real dollars has gone down.

The Indian Health Service (IHS), a division of the Department of Health and Human Services, which now provides for health services Native Americans, is running on a deficit to provide its needed services.

Hill was also quoted on statistics that the general public may find surprising. Opposed to the 6.2 percent rate of unemployment for both sexes in the general population, 16 percent of Native American men and 32 percent of

Native American women are unemployed. The median annual household income for Native Americans is \$19,000. The average for the general population is \$30,000. The poverty level for Native Americans of all age groups is 31 percent, as opposed to 13 percent for all other races.

The IHS has discouraging statistics of its own. Their statistics, 1990 through 1992, report that Native Americans have higher death rates than the general population.

They show that a Native American's chances of dying from alcoholism are 447 percent higher. In addition, their chances of dying from tuberculosis, unintentional injuries, diabetes mellitus, pneumonia and influenza are significantly higher (starting at 47 and increasing to 340 percent).

By now you're probably asking how things were allowed to get this bad. History shows that the decline has been steady since the beginning of our country.

When the United States was founded, the Native Americans were to be treated like any other foreign sovereign power as was stated in the 1789 Northwest Ordinance.

The desire to expand proved stronger than the desire to recognize the right of our neighbor's sovereignty. Through legal maneuvering of our own laws (not theirs) and out and out war, the Native Americans were eventually forced to submit to the reservations.

What is less well known is that in 1934 the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) was passed. What this did was replace the traditional governments that the tribes already had and replace them with officially sanctioned tribal governments chosen by the federal government.

These new governments, consisting of Native Americans who were educated off-reservation, became very loyal to the federal government. With their power owed to the passage of the IRA, the new tribal governments became puppets of the federal government.

Now if there is an issue of mineral mining or oil drilling rights, the tribes have no objection.

In fact, all funding from the federal government goes through the IRA, welfare, Medicare, you name it.

Each tribe gets to write their own constitution, and unlike state constitutions they can contradict the Federal Constitution. Even after being declared U.S. citizens they were still considered wards of the federal government. Tribes are allowed to be independent nations under the status of being dependent.

Environmental laws on reservations typically are less strict than federal laws. Grazing and mineral mining are more profitable without these laws, but the real cost may have yet to be seen. Remember where the largest deposits of uranium are?

"I am tired, and my heart is sick. I will fight no more, forever," Chief Joseph said when he surrendered to the United States. He was one of the most successful Native American rebellion leaders in history.

However, as great a leader as Joseph was, he could not rebel forever. He finally surrendered to save what was left of his tribe and to live out the rest of his life in peace.

Even losing most of his tribe's land and freedom to live on a government Indian reservation was better than the alternative. It was either keep fighting or save the tribe. If Joseph knew what was in store for his people, he may have very well fought to the end of their existence.

These options are not very pleasant to think about. Monetary compensation would be enormous and could only be assumed to make up for all that has been done. Who wants to wake up one morning and find that their backyard belongs to the Native Americans again?

There are never any easy answers. If we are to hold to the ideal of being a nation of justice, the beginning of the modern free world, how can we go on ignoring the fact that our freedom was built on the backs of the Native Americans? Who is to blame?

If we continue to act the way we have, one day we will wake up to find that the Native Americans are no more, forever.

Fear is the Root of All Homophobia

By CHRIS FRANK
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Opinions. Diversity. Options. All of these words are supposed to incorporate our society's democracy, but unfortunately, they do not.

Anyone who tries to break out of the mold that we have labeled "normal," are condemned and shunned.

Diverse is fine, as long as it fits into our culture's norm. What does this have to do with the television show "Ellen," you ask?

Finally a star is trying to represent more than just a slice of life, and immediately she is labeled deviant or unnatural for being homosexual.

Television is one of the most easily accessible and watched communication media, and yet it strains to catch up with movies, books and magazines. These are trying to at least keep abreast of the times, and not remaining in the 1950s.

I totally understand and empathize with those who have religious convictions, and therefore have strong feelings against homosexuality.

Homosexuality is against their personal values and morals, and I

can respect that. If I couldn't, I would be just as close-minded as those people who are doing the labeling, and judging.

I can empathize and try to understand, but that doesn't mean I have to agree or compromise my beliefs.

I also believe that if you have a problem with a program, you have the right to turn it off. "Ellen" is not proposing that all TV shows should start advocating homosexuality to the general public and to small children.

Parents have every right to disagree with the content of shows as being inappropriate for their children. But, they also have the

One can empathize and understand but that does not mean they have to agree or water down their beliefs.

right to turn it off!

They also have the jurisdiction to turn off R-rated movies with foul language and nudity. (Not that homosexuality is comparable)

Homosexuality is a way of life for many people. Who am I to

judge, when I don't want to be judged myself? I do not have any proof that it is genetic, but I also don't have proof that it's not.

America has already shunned them, denied them the right to marry, to adopt a child, to share health benefits, even to leave property to their significant other. Why shouldn't Ellen DeGeneres be able to demand the right just to be herself?

The root of it all is fear. Homophobia is just that, fear of homosexuality, fear of the unknown, fear of people different than themselves.

Should homosexuals be forced to watch shows all about people and situations that they cannot relate to?

Should they be forced into the background yet again because of some persons fear or prejudice?

It makes me sad that our society is limited and stifled just because we could not let ourselves be open-minded and understanding, therefore making us a more tolerant society.

In the Nov. 14 issue of the Valley Star, the network on which "Ellen" is shown was incorrect in the headline; the network is ABC. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

On November 14, 1996 I read an article titled "A Degenerate Decision by NBC's Hit Ellen" by John Tarr. Not was I only appalled by the authors lack of educated opinions, but disappointed that the school newspaper would print an article containing phrases such as "It is an individual choice mistakenly made by lost and confused individuals unsure of their identity and unable to cope with reality." This statement is stereotypical fallacy which was completely uncalled for and extremely unprofessional. If the main objective was to point out why homosexuals should not be portrayed on television? Then why was I not shown the facts, projected figures on the consequences of such a show, and/or at least examples from real life experiences concerning the homosexual community to persuade me to feel why "the networks should not inform the public of the deviant nature of homosexuality." In addition, I don't understand why a person like my friend, with a Masters degree in music from USC could be called "lost and confused" with a "deviant nature." And at the same time represent the many individuals who have held monogamous same-sex relationships for at least a year. And why children are able to watch lifestyles of violent and highly promiscuous television characters such as "Melrose Place" on Fox Television, which I believe airs around the same time as "Ellen."

Therefore John Tarr, please be better prepared to support your ideas so that readers such as myself may be able to define what your articles are really based on.

Sincerely
Carol Kim

Dear Editor

This letter is in response to staff writer John Tarr, and his recent article "A Degenerate Decision." In this editorial, you have condemned all gays and lesbians of being "lost and confused individuals, unable to cope with reality." However, nowhere did you provide any information to back up your empty rhetoric of ignorance and fear, which comes dangerously close to KKK propaganda.

I'm gay and I'm proud, and I'm not going to let you get away with saying what you said without expecting a fight. You claim you're not a closed-minded bigot? Then prove it! I challenge you to write another article about gays, but this time I want facts. I would like to know if there is any logic behind your hate. If not, then you have proven yourself guilty of prejudice, and show your own shortcomings as a journalist.

Sincerely
Jonathan Gore

Dear Editor

I would like to respond to the article "A Degenerate Decision...." I was very upset, not only by the article itself, but the fact that it was written by your own Editor-in-Chief.

Now whether or not we are born with it or choose to be homosexuals is not the point. The point is that it happens. This is a way of life for some people (actually a lot of people) so why not show it? By not showing or talking to our peers about homosexuality is turning heads in the way of ignorance, and sir we have had enough ignorance. Why should it matter if a male or a female chooses his or her own gender, the fact that two people have found each other

will if anything "advocate" love.

Though I did disagree with you Mr. Tarr, I have to thank you for writing this article because it made me realize that ignorance is blind.

Sincerely
Marie Morgan

Dear Editor

Many ignorant things were printed in the opinion piece "A Degenerate Decision By NBC's Hit Ellen."

To write that homosexuality is a choice made by lost and confused individuals contradicts everything that I have ever heard or read on the subject. Most times the lost and confused individuals are those who choose to condemn them for loving whomever they want to, regardless of the so-called "morality" of the times.

I hope that children watching Ellen are shown that homosexuality is normal and acceptable, because to anybody who have the intelligence to think past societies prejudices, it is.

Even though Tarr, the staff writer, voiced things incredibly condescending to the gay lifestyle, it was amusing to read an article, written in this decade, with such a backwards, bigoted viewpoint. Sweetie, this is Los Angeles. We are rather advanced when it comes to gay rights here, so get with the program. Don't want too see gays? Then get away from the entertainment industry altogether, they for the most part champion the lifestyle. Luckily, in this neck of the woods there's more of us (gay rights) than there are of you (homophobic).

Sincerely
Jennifer Smith

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✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS

The Valley Star will receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers. The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 250 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist, or sexually oriented denigrations. Letters must be signed and include student's ID number. Letters may be dropped at the Valley Star Bungalow 25, by Monday morning for the following Thursday.



Photo courtesy of MCA

Rockabilly Twang Can Lead to Deafness

By JOHN TARR
STAFF WRITER

Speedball Baby came to Los Angeles in the beginning of October and then they left, thank god. Unfortunately, they left behind their debut album, "Cinema."

They have been promoted as a rockabilly band with a twang-beat like thunder in a blizzard. That might be a close comparison, considering a blizzard can be a frightening experience.

Of the 13 tracks on the album, only the title track has any potential of gaining recognition for this band.

Most of the songs sound good, instrumentally that is, until lead singer Ron Ward starts scream-

ing non-sensical lyrics comparable to a cat in heat being mauled by a pack of Rottweilers.

Former "Kelly Township" singer Ali Smith is on bass in Speedball Baby, and is promptly deafened by Martin Owens on drums.

Although Speedball Baby somehow found the money for this venture, it may have been better spent on music lessons.

Smith sounds like a 10-year-old who just found his father's guitar behind the living room sofa for the first time.

Owens sounds far from spectacular, never taking over a song to strut his stuff and drive a pounding rhythm into the brain.

There is a definite South Pacific influence throughout the album which sounds similar to a cross between Elvis Presley's "Only Fools Fall in Love" (sorry Elvis) and the soundtrack to "Sleepwalkers."

The South Pacific influence was not pulled off well at all. It leaves the listener pleading, "Please, make it stop!"

"Shakin' it Loose" and "Cinema" are the only warm spots on this album. The rest of the songs with titles such as "Dog on Fire" and "Toss My Salad," live up to their names. They are boring attempts at being original.

Speedball Baby tries so hard to produce a different sound they

forgot the point, to create music.

What they have done is created an album which sounds like a garage band on a soap box using the Million Man March megaphone to scream their message out over the audience's booing.

The only redeeming quality in this album is they make no noticeable reference to their namesake. A speedball is a mixture of speed and heroin. It gives a clue to why this band sounds so bad, they probably did too much.

On the Valley Star scale from One to Four stars, Four stars being best, this album scores a lowly ONE star and deserves one comment: "Why did you make me listen to this?!!!"

Turkey Day Tribute

By L.E. THOMAS
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Gobble. Gobble. That's what turkeys say and what too many of us do after the second trip to the buffet. (Hey, it's only one day a year, give me a break.)

From fabulous feasts to football fantasia, the Thanksgiving holiday has different strokes for different folks.

Does the traditional meaning of the holiday still stand true in these super-techno '90s? According to an unofficial Turkey Day survey on campus last week, apparently, it does.

Most Valley College students will be spending the holiday here in sunny Southern California. Some, however, will be venturing as far as Arizona and snowy Michigan.

Nearly every student surveyed will be sharing a holiday feast with family or close friends. Most women will "cook like a slave" and for the men, well, it's football city.

Valley's unofficial favorite football team, aside from the Monarchs, of course, are the San Francisco 49ers. No letters of protest, please.

As far as the feasting goes, no one as of yet can explain those million or so different kinds of salads and side dishes that weirdly only rear their heads on the fourth Thursday of November.

Student favorites ranged from parsnip-squash casserole to cranberry surprise. (See what I mean?) Turkey and stuffing got high marks but ye ole mashed potato still reigns. Remember, stuff the turkey, not the other way around.

Virtually no one surveyed knew it was Abraham Lincoln who ap-

pointed Thanksgiving Day a national annual holiday as one of his last official acts as President in 1863. (So, now you know.)

The overwhelmingly most important thing about the holiday to men, women, young and old alike, is spending time with family. Sounds pretty traditional.

Having a day off and enjoying the holiday feast ranked third and fourth.

Even though nearly everyone admitted to tuning in their sets, football ranked a far off last place in importance.

A sizable number of students surveyed actually give thanks on Thanksgiving Day. In fact, giving thanks ranked as the second most important thing about the holiday.

Nearly all stated what they were most thankful for. Topping the lists of appreciation were family (first again), health, home, job and life itself. A few mentions varied from freedom and peace to getting rid of a bad boyfriend.

Favorite traditions included cooking with family, watching old home videos and snapping photos.

Other more unique traditions included reflecting upon the mistreatment of native Americans and off-roading in the sand dunes somewhere. All quite noble activities.

Bravo to those fortunate enough to have family nearby. Others will visit via frenzied holiday airports and long-distance phone calls. Whatever, it's not a guy thing, it's not a woman thing, it appears to be a family thing.

It seems as though pig skin contenders and "I Love Lucy" marathons are just on the surface. When we get to the heart of the matter, we found, well - it's really a matter of heart.

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David J. Karubian
Riddell Insurance Agency

In short. There have been three major changes with respect to insurance and California drivers.

First, the "Mandatory Insurance Law" - AB650. On or about the beginning of October, the Governor of California reactivated the mandatory insurance law which some of you may remember was in effect from 1985 through 1988. As it was then, so shall it be now. If you are stopped for any traffic violation, accident, or when you register your car, you must show proof of insurance. This time, however, the government has doubled and tripled the penalties. Failure to show evidence of insurance can and will result in a fine from \$500 to \$1,000. Your car could also be impounded at the peace officer's discretion.

Second, Proposition 213. Many of you know this one by the label "frivolous lawsuits". Now the insurance companies no longer have to pay lawyer's fees and pain and suffering claims to people who are uninsured. That's right. So if your friend who has no insurance is hit by someone who does have insurance he cannot claim for anything other than his medical bills and property damage. Essentially, lawyers have no incentive to defend uninsured people any longer.

Lastly, "Redlining". Now that the laws of our state are beginning to coincide with the demands of the community and the insurance companies, there is at lawsuit some good news. Actuaries claim that if the zones are divided into two broad categories (i.e. metro and rural) and that if the people comply with the laws we can expect a 5-7% rate reduction. Unfortunately, many of the people to whom these new laws apply to specifically, have interpreted this decrease in rates to take effect immediately. The "Redlining" legislation which apparently was passed has yet to be acted upon by either the government or the insurance companies until the new year.

In short, don't be one of those people who wait until after the new year to get their act together. The law of supply and demand dictate that as we approach the demand date the costs of goods and services rises.

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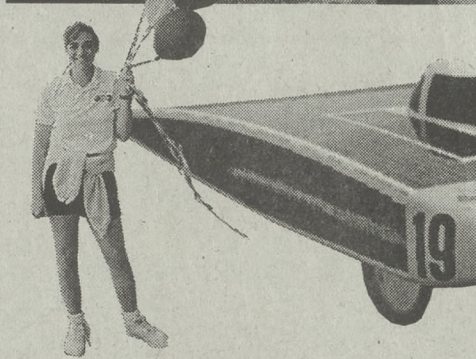
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Dave Lins Scores Again

By CARMEN PINTO
STAFF WRITER

Valley College's athletic department has chosen Monarch quarterback Dave Lins as the athlete of the month for October.

At the time of nomination, Lins' accomplishments include 64 percent pass completion, a 7-1 record, 1,707 yards passing 16 touchdowns and only two interceptions.

Lins, a full-time sophomore, was graduated from Crespi High School in 1995 and enrolled at Valley College in the Fall of '95.

Lins is six feet, two inches tall and weighs about 170 pounds—he is on the small side for most quarterbacks. "Most quarterbacks are usually between 6'2" and 6'4" and weigh about 165-185 pounds," Lins said.

He is considering trying out for the football team at his campus

of choice, as a walk-on.

Lins said he played football in hopes of earning a scholarship to perhaps a "Level 1" university, not necessarily a big name campus.

No major scholarship offers have been made to Lins, but he remains hopeful. "I'll still transfer even with no scholarship offer," he said.

Although this is Lins second semester at Valley College, he is looking into transferring to a campus within California.

The Monarchs have an 8-1 record so far, with one more regular game to be announced. Lins is confident in the team.

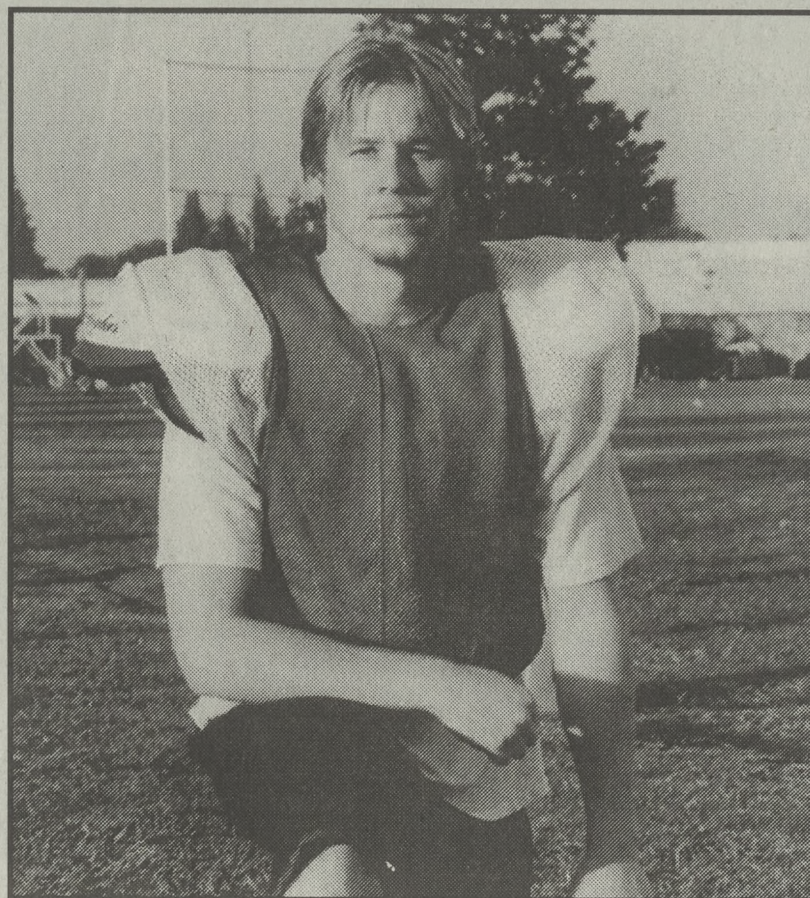
The offense, or what Lins calls, "Monarch era," usually tend to draw the most attention because naturally, they take charge of the game.

The defense, however, plays a major role in the sport as well. They're the ones that basically keep the other team's players from scoring.

Somewhat bashful, but very pleasant and courteous, Lins said he currently had no major in mind but would soon decide.

When asked why he thought he was chosen athlete of the month, he simply replied, "I don't know, because I play well."

I play well may be an understatement given the above mentioned accomplishments.



Maria Ivey/ValleyStar

Monarchs quarterback Dave Lins warms up on the sidelines.

GAME PREVIEW COURTESY DALE BECK, MONARCH PRESS RELATIONS

The Monarchs play their final game of the regular season Saturday as they host the Santa Monica Corsairs in a 7:00 p.m. battle.

It has been an up and down year for the third year coach Robert Taylor (16-13-1) and his Santa Monica Corsairs. After being pounded by Moorpark last week 60-6, they enter Monarch Stadium with a 4-5 overall record, 3-2 in divisional play.

The talented Marc Ruiz (6-2,

205) fills the quarterback slot. In nine games, Ruiz has completed 131 of 256 passes, averaging 12.7 yards per throw. In the 28-21 win over L.A. Southwest, Ruiz completed 15 of 21 passes for 219 yards; against Pierce he was successful 17 of 24 times for 204 yards.

The Corsairs have two key players in their backfield in Lonnie Landry (5-9, 175) and J'von Willis (5-10, 208). In the Western State Conference, Landry is seventh with 796 yards in 127 carries (6.3 per carry), while

Willis is eleventh (69/535, 7.8).

In the team's 42-21 loss to Northern Division leader Allen Hancock, Landry still managed to carry 19 times for 141 yards. He went over 100 yards again against L.A. Southwest, carrying 22 times for 138 yards and a touchdown.

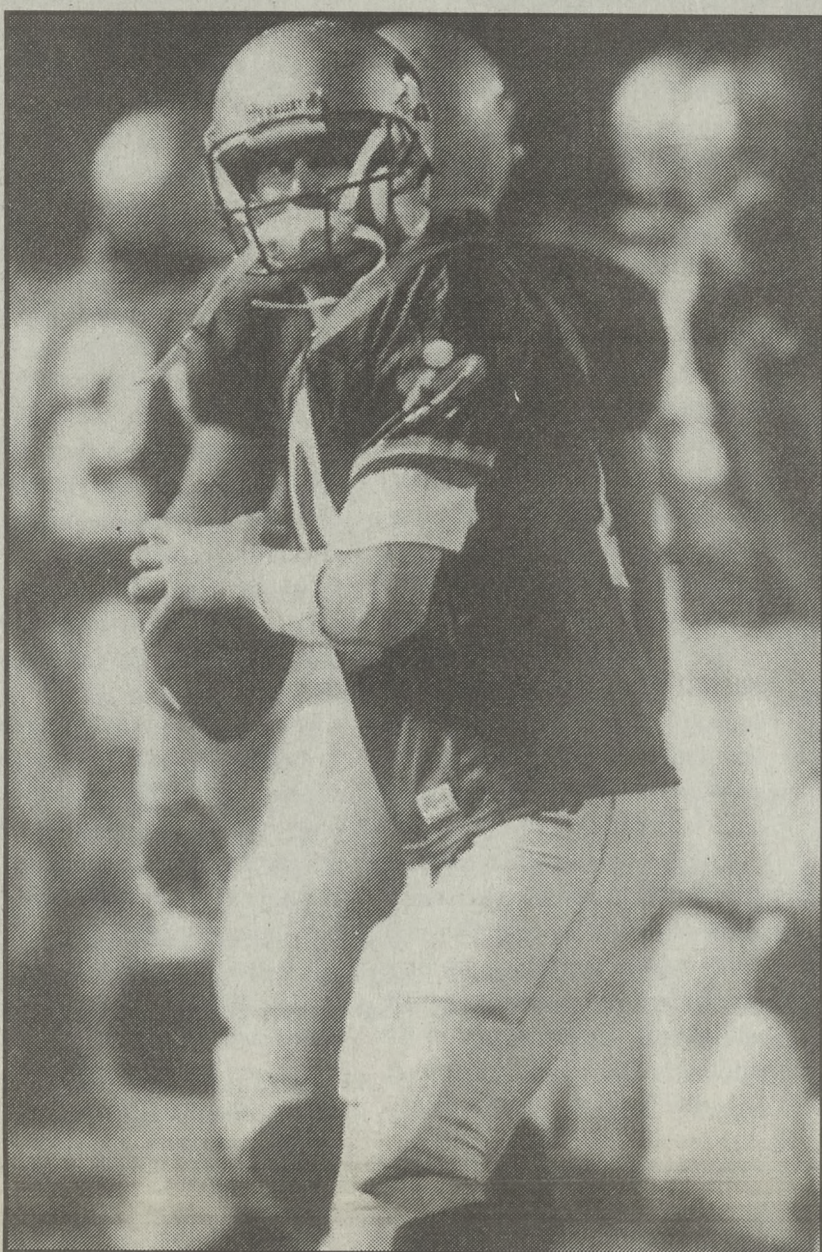
Ruiz' primary receiver is sophomore Manny Desousa (6-2, 190), the number three leading receiver in the WSC with 55 catches for 666 yards. Earlier this season, Desousa broke the school record of 100 career receptions. West LA discovered Ruiz likes to throw to him, that afternoon they hooked up nine times for 92 yards. He's also the teams leading scorer with 44 points this season.

Desousa doubles as the punter, averaging 34.1 yards per kick.

The other popular receiver is Demetrius Posey (6-2, 190), ninth in the WSC with 36 catches for 637 yards. Last week, Posey took a pass from back-up quarterback Aaron Ho (5-10, 170) for the team's only score, a 70 yard pass play.

On defense, Robert grays (6-3, 190) has been effective while on the prowl as a defensive back. To wit, are his three interceptions this season.

When the Monarchs kick off, they'll want to keep the ball away from Tim Nelson (5-11, 190). A transfer student from Compton College, he sent a message to his former teammates when he returned the Tartars opening kick-off 89 yards for a touchdown. Currently, he averages 26.7 yards per turn.



Maria Ivey/Valley Star

October Athlete of the Month: Dave Lins, the Monarchs star quarterback, wearing #10

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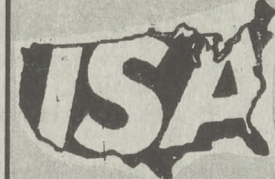
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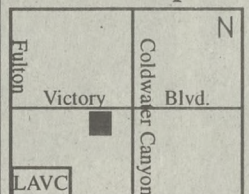
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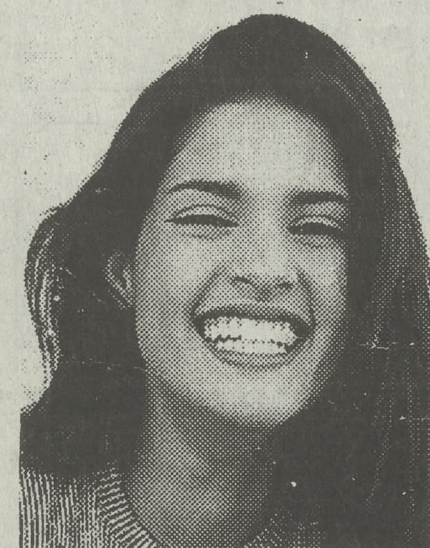
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